

Today, Rep. Bruce Braley was named to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. This committee considers legislation on energy, healthcare, consumer safety and the environment.

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced that he has been named to serve on the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the 111th Congress beginning on January 6th.

The committee has jurisdiction over energy policy; healthcare policy, including children's health insurance; trade issues; telecommunications and the internet; environment and air quality; and consumer affairs and protection.

"Our country is at an important crossroads," said Congressman Braley. "That's why I'll be working on the Energy and Commerce Committee to create jobs in Iowa and to help make it the world's renewable energy leader. I'll also be working on this committee to make healthcare more affordable and accessible to Iowans in these uncertain economic times.

"I look forward to working with a new president and a new chairman on this committee to bring the change we need to our country's energy and healthcare policy."

The Energy and Commerce Committee is the oldest standing committee in the House. It's an exclusive committee, meaning members of the committee may only serve on other House committees with a waiver from the Speaker.

Since 1946, there have been only three Iowa members to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee: Representatives Greg Ganske (committee member from 1995 - 2002), Tom Tauke (committee member from 1981 - 1990), and James I. Dolliver (committee member from 1949 - 1956).

Braley is the first Iowa Democrat to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee since the modern version of the committee was formed in 1946.